

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00
ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAA-01 SES-02 NEAE-00
/076 W

-----097645 151342Z /47

O R 151322Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2146
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5720

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: US TS XF
SUBJECT: TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ON IMPORTANCE
OF CAMP DAVID MEETING

1. AFTER TAKING UP THE Z/R ISSUE THIS MORNING WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER MOHAMED FITOURI, WE DISCUSSED THE
GRAVE IMPASSE WE HAVE NOW ENCOUNTERED IN THE MID-EAST
NEGOTIATIONS. THIS GAVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASSURE HIM
THAT THE USG IS FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
CAMP DAVID MEETING.

2. FITOURI SEES CAMP DAVID AS PROVIDING "LITERALLY THE
LAST CHANCE "FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT". IN TRUEST
SENSE OF THE WORD, HE SAID, EVERYTHING NOW DEPENDS ON THE
U.S. HE HOPES U.S. WILL CONCLUDE THAT THE TIME HAS
FINALLY COME TO UNVEIL ITS OWN PLAN FOR A SETTLEMENT.
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THE U.S. MUST PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE AND NO LONGER THAT
OF A MEDIATOR.

3. FAILURE AT CAMP DAVID, FITOURI BELIEVES, COULD RESULT
IN (A) THE FALL OF SADAT; (B) A REOPENING OF HOSTILITIES
AND C) THE RE-ENTRY OF THE SOVIETS ON THE MIDDLE EAST
SCENE. ALL OF THIS MUST BE AVOIDED. WITH COUNTRY AFTER

COUNTRY TURNING TO THE SOVIETS WE WOULD SOON SEE THE END OF THE MODERATE ARAB GOVERNMENTS, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, AND FINALLY WOULD COME SOVIET CONTROL OF THE MIDDLE EAST OIL RESERVES, THEIR MAJOR GOAL AND, HE SAID REGRETFULLY, THE REALIZABLE ONE.

4. I TOLD FITOURI THAT AT THIS JUNCTURE WE NEED ALL THE PATIENCE, UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT WE CAN GET FROM ARAB FIRNEDS LIKE TUNISIA AND THANKED HIM FOR HIS SYMPATHETIC VIEWS.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

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